

A pharmacy technician's registration renewal for calendar year 2016 will not be issued unless the technician has completed 20 hours of approved continuing pharmacy technician education (CPTe) during the two-year period between August 1, 2013 and July 31, 2015. Thereafter no annual pharmacy technician registration renewal will be issued unless the technician presents the Board with satisfactory evidence of completion of 20 hours of approved CPTe per two-year reporting period, with each period ending on July 31 of odd-numbered years. This means that all currently registered pharmacy technicians who plan on continuing to be registered should now be completing approved CPTe programs. Sometime in the spring of each odd-numbered year technicians will be notified that they need to certify completion of the required 20 hours of CE. This can be done by logging onto our website, going into your account and checking a box. After the certification period is over, 10% of technicians will be randomly audited and will be required to provide proof of completion of the required CE.

CPTe must focus on the competencies that the technician must carry out and the specific duties that the technician performs. The Board accepts programs developed specifically for technicians (or for both technicians and pharmacists) by either Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)-accredited or Board-approved providers. A technician may also apply for credit for attendance at programs developed by other organizations, provided that the technician completes a continuing education program approval form, obtainable from the Board's web site, and submits it to the Board within 90 days after completing the program.

There are many different sources of technician CE. Some CE courses are free, some require a fee to be paid. Please make sure that any program that you completed has been approved for technicians alone or for both technicians and pharmacists. If you complete a program meant only for pharmacists the credit will not count towards the Board's requirement.

The Minnesota Pharmacists Association (MPhA) and Minnesota Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP) co-host an annual CE conference for technicians. You can find out more at their web sites: www.mpha.org or www.mnshp.org.

Here are links to other web sites where technician CE is offered:

American Pharmacists Association (APhA): www.pharmacist.com
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP): www.ashp.org
National Pharmacy Technician Association (NPTA): www.pharmacytechnician.org
Pharmacy Technician's Letter: pharmacytechniciansletter.com
Pharmacy Times: www.pharmacytimes.com
Power-Pak CE ®: www.powerpak.com
RxSchool®: www.rxschool.com

*Please note that these are all independent web sites and they do not report any continuing education activity to the MN Board of Pharmacy.